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LANDMARK COLLEGE AWARDED GRANT TO ADD EYE TRACKING SYSTEM TO ITS UNIVERSAL DESIGN & USABILITY LAB TO PROMOTE EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

Putney, VT – August 1, 2006 - In July 2006, Landmark College was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the National Science Foundation-funded Eastern Alliance in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (EAST). This grant, entitled “An Eyetracking System to Support Research on the Accessibility and Effectiveness of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Content for Students with Learning Disabilities,” will allow researchers at Landmark College to purchase an eye tracking system to investigate how people with learning disabilities perceive, process, and use information designed to support learning in STEM disciplines. This grant is the second grant Landmark College has received from EAST. The first grant was awarded in June 2005, providing funding for software and hardware equipment to build the Universal Design and Usability Lab at Landmark College.

“I am particularly excited about this project because it provides the College the capability to investigate how students perceive, learn, and use information. It also helps us engage our students in collaborative research, affording them the opportunity to develop and conduct applied studies to develop new materials that can promote learning,” explains Dr. Steve Fadden, Director of Research at Landmark College.

This grant continues to support the College’s strategic vision to have an extensive universal design center on campus. The College strives to continue promoting the inclusion of students with learning disabilities in the research and development process to ensure that assistive technologies, learning materials, and information are designed in a manner that promotes learning and interest.

“Universal Design has been an integral part of Landmark College’s programs and curriculum for some time,” notes Dr. Brent Betit, Executive Vice President of Landmark College. “Establishing a lab where staff, faculty, and students may research and test STEM content contributes to our objective to break down the barriers to careers in STEM fields for students with learning differences. Adding an eye tracker to the lab creates significant capabilities to engage in research relevant to the field. The experiential nature of this lab is also consistent with our multi-modal approach to teaching and provides our students with a powerful, cutting edge resource to support learning.”

Inquiries should be directed to Dr. Steve Fadden, Principal Investigator.

Landmark College is recognized as the nation’s leading college for students with learning disabilities and/or AD/HD.